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# Trail of Tears State Park

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Missouri Department of Natural Resources

# Trail of Tears State Park

Jackson, Mo.

The tragic history that gives Trail of Tears State Park its name provides a sharp contrast to the peaceful, serene setting and the abundance of recreational opportunities enjoyed by visitors today. The 3,415-acre park is a memorial to the Cherokee Indians that lost their lives in a forced relocation, as well as a place for visitors to participate in a variety of outdoor adventures.

The park is located on the site where nine of 13 groups of Cherokee Indians crossed the Mississippi River in harsh winter conditions in 1838-39. Thousands lost their lives on the trail, including dozens on or near the park's grounds. Legend says that Nancy Bushyhead Hildebrand died and was buried within the park's boundaries. The Bushyhead Memorial is a tribute to all the Cherokee who died on the trail. The park's visitor center features exhibits that interpret the forced relocation, as well as the park's many natural features.

Today, numerous picnic sites are scattered throughout the park and campsites are available in a wooded area and near the river. Anglers can cast their lines in either the Mississippi River or the 20-acre Lake Boutin, stocked with bass, bluegill and catfish. The park's numerous trails offer opportunities for hiking, backpacking, primitive camping and equestrian pursuits. In winter, the bluffs and cliffs along the river are noted as roosting sites for bald eagles.



For more information, contact **Trail of Tears State Park**, 429 Moccasin Springs, Jackson, MO 63755, 573-334-1711. For information on other Missouri state parks, call toll free at 800-334-6946 (voice) or 800-379-2419 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf).

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

WEB SITE: [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com)

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